## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0025] FIG. 5 illustrates a side view of an exemplary tracheostomy nebulizing pad attached to a tracheostomy tube inserted in a stoma according to an embodiment of the present invention. In normal operation, a tracheostomy tube **300** is inserted through a stoma **500** in the neck **520** to contact the trachea **505**.

[0028] FIG. 9 illustrates a side view of an exemplary tracheostomy nebulizing pad according to an embodiment of the present invention attached to a tracheostomy tube as secretions are expelled from the orifice through the tracheostomy tube passageway. Various secretions **900**, such as irradiated tissue, mucus, blood, and bile may be expelled through a tracheostomy tube **300** with the intense force, such as the force produced when a user coughs. Without a nebulizing pad **100**, these secretions **900** may be expelled from the tracheostomy tube **300** and onto objects in front of the user. In such a case, the nebulizing pad **100** may act as an absorbing wall. As secretions **900** are hurled **905** through the tracheostomy tube **300** and out the passageway opening, the secretions **900** may contact the absorbent central core **110** instead of being freely emitted into the air.